98TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } { No. 98-268

DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR PERSONAL EFFECTS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS IN THE XXIII OLYMPIAD

JUNE 24, 1983.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 290]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 290) to permit free entry into the United States of the personal effects, equipment, and other related articles of foreign participants, officials, and other accredited members of delegations involved in the games of the XXIII Olympiad to be held in the United States in 1984, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

House Joint Resolution 290 would permit free entry into the United States of the personal effects, equipment, and other related articles of accredited members of delegations involved in the games of the XXIII Olympiad to be held in the United States in 1984.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Subcommittee on Trade held a markup on June 7, 1983, took favorable action on the resolution and ordered by voice vote on the resolution to be reported to the full Committee on Ways and Means.

The committee on June 22, 1983, favorably considered the resolution as reported by the subcommittee and ordered that it be favorably reported to the House of Representatives.

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SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND JUSTIFICATION

House Joint Resolution 290 would provide for the duty-free entry into the United States of the personal effects, equipment to be used in connection with the XXIII Olympiad, and other appropriate articles which may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. This duty-free entry privilege would be extended to foreign participants, officials, and other accredited members of delegations involved in the games of the XXIII Olympiad and members of the immediate families and servants of such participants, officials, and accredited members.

The Treasury Department is recommending this legislation be enacted to expedite the entry of certain articles and to permit the Customs Service to concentrate its resources on security matters relating to the Olympics. This joint resolution would permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue regulations to simplify entry requirements and thus facilitate the entry of participants in the Olympics.

Regulations, developed under this act and issued by the Secretary of the Treasury would contain provisions advising participating countries that articles accorded free entry under this provision may not be sold in the United States, and that all such articles not consumed or totally destroyed must be exported from this country. It is Customs' intention that articles accorded free entry include articles for use in national displays related to the Olympics. Furthermore, articles entering the United States as much as 18 months before the Olympics, to be used in preparation for the Olympics or for the World Games to be held in 1983 in preparation for the Olympics, would qualify for expedited treatment under this provision.

This initiative is in accord with the President's policy to reduce, where appropriate, the governmental formalities related to the Olympics. The State Department is already in the process of developing visa waiver procedures for visiting Olympic participants. It is logical that streamlined importation procedures for the participants' personal effects and equipment should also be developed.

A similar joint resolution was passed in anticipation of the 1932 Olympics held in the United States.

Currently, articles related to athletic events such as racing shells, javelins, bows and arrows, bicycles, yachts, canoes, and special gymnastics equipment are separately provided for in the Tariff Schedules of the United States. While this classification is necessary for permanent commercial importations, it is not useful for temporary importations for the Olympics, where the clear intent is to export these articles at the conclusion of the Olympics. It is true that a temporary importation under bond can be made for each article, but that represents needless paperwork for the participating country and U.S. Customs, complicated by language barriers among 112 participating countries. Also, since some of these importations will be arriving and departing from different ports, additional paperwork for U.S. Customs will be generated. Since Customs will already be under tremendous pressure to provide maximum security to deter any possible terrorist strike as well as to provide the identification of arriving potential terrorists, not to mention to facilities the 20-percent increase in arriving traffic for the events, it would be beneficial to devote less manpower to administer the importation of personal effects and athletic equipment by the various participating countries.

VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE IN REPORTING THE BILL

In compliance with clause 2(l)(2)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is made relative to the vote of the committee in reporting the resolution. House Joint Resolution 290 was ordered favorably reported by the committee by voice vote.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 2(l)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives relating to oversight findings, the committee concluded, as a result of its review of the circumstances existing with respect to each of the products and the provisions of trade law involved, that it would be desirable to enact House Joint Resolution 290 by reason of the considerations outlined above in the section-by-section analysis and justification.

With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no oversight findings or recommendations have been submitted to the committee by the Committee on Government Operations with respect to the subject matter contained in this resolution.

BUDGETARY AUTHORITY AND COST ESTIMATES, INCLUDING ESTIMATES OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

In compliance with clause 7(a) of rule XIII and clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee states that House Joint Resolution 290 does not provide any new budget authority or any new or increased tax expenditures.

In compliance with clause 7(a) of rule XIII and clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee provides below information furnished by the Congressional Budget Office on House Joint Resolution 290 and required to be included therein:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., June 24, 1983.

Hon. DAN ROSTENKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the Budget Act, the Congressional Budget Office has examined H.J. Res. 290. This bill would provide for the duty-free entry into the United States of the personal effects, equipment, and other appropriate related articles of accredited members of delegations involved in the games of the XXIII Olympiad to be held in 1984.

This bill does not provide any new budget authority or any new or increased tax expenditures.

The bill will have no effect on revenues.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

ALICE M. RIVLIN, *Director.*

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

With respect to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee states that House Joint Resolution 290 would not have an inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the general economy.

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